

SECOND PRIMER

OF

ISLAM

IBADAH

In The Name Of Allah, Most Gracious. Most Merciful

Preface

Education of Muslim children is one of greatest responsibilities resting on the shoulders of the elder generation. It is a problem which besets us everywhere in the world-more so in those countries where our children are exposed to a culture basically different from the Muslim Culture. The Board of Islamic Publications, Delhi has made a beginning in this direction with the Primers of Islam originally published by the Muslim Educational Trust, London. More may follow in time to come depending on the demands of Muslim children in this country and introducing Islam to others who would like to be introduced to Islam in all its details.

The Second Primer of Islam covers the two basic concepts of Islam: Iman and Ibadah (or worship). It aims at providing elementary but basic knowledge of the different forms of Ibadah. We hope it will be found by parents and teachers a useful basis for teaching and discussion. Suggestions based on experience to improve the matter or presentation will be thankfully received.

Mohammad Yousuf Siddiqui
January, 1970

IMAN

(Belief or Faith)

In The First Primer, we learnt about Iman, what we believe in. We believe that Allah is ONE and ALMIGHTY. He sent Prophets and Messengers to show the Right Path. He sent Books of Guidance. Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the last Messenger of Allah. The Quran is the last Book, complete and unchanged.

We believe that angels are servants of Allah. We also believe in other unseen things (Ghaib) like **Al-Jannah** (Heaven), **Al-Jahannam** (Hell) and **Al-Akhira** (Life after death). There will be a Day of Judgement. Those who obey Allah and do good in this life will be rewarded. Those who disobey Him and do evil will be punished.

IBADAH

(Worship)

Iman, as we have learnt, means acceptance of the Divine Truth.

We accept the Truth and also act according to it.

We act according to what we believe in. This is very important.

All men are born equal. They belong to one family:-

They have to be good to each other.
They have to be just and kind.

Ibadah helps us to do these.

Man is the **Khalifah** (representative) of Allah on the earth.

His duties are great and important. He needs the help of Allah to fulfil them.

Allah is Lord and the Master of

everything in the Universe. We obtain His help through **Ibadah**.

Every good act is an act of worship, which is called **Ibadah**.

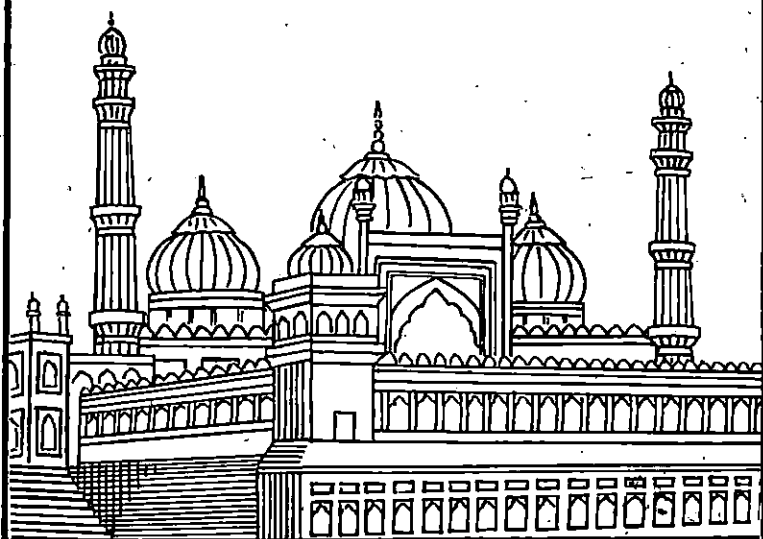
But there are some forms of **Ibadah** which are compulsory.

These are:

Prayer	(Salat or Namaz)
Poor Tax	(Zakat)
Fasting	(Saum or Roza)
Pilgrimage	(Hajj)

Ibadah is the act of remembering Allah and seeking His help.

It keeps us on the Right Path.



The Famous Shahjahani Mosque Delhi

SALAT **(Prayer)**

Salat is the second pillar of Islam.
Its first pillar is the **Kalimah** (the
Article of Faith).

Salat is compulsory for every Muslim
who is 12 years old or over.

Man is busy in his work throughout the day. There are many things which make him forget his duties to Allah. He is, therefore, reminded of his duties again and again.

A Muslim's day is a day of remembrance and obedience. A Muslim offers **Salat** five times a day. He gets up early and offers the morning **Salat** before sunrise. This **Salat** is called **Salat-ul-Fajr**. Thus, his day begins with the remembrance of Allah.

Then he prays at mid-day. This is called **Salat-uz-Zuhr**. He prays again in the after-noon. This is **Salat-ul-Asr**. Soon after sunset, once again he prays to God. This is known as **Salat-ul-Maghrib**. Before he goes to bed, he once again bows his head before Allah in **Salat**. This is **Salat-ul-Isha**.

Salat is the act of worshipping Allah in the manner that was taught by the Holy Prophet, Muhammad (peace be upon him). It is an outward expression of one's Faith in Allah. It is a practical sign of obedience to Allah. It is the symbol of one's Faith in Allah.

Salat makes us God-fearing.

It helps us to build a respectable character.

It makes us responsible and disciplined.

It keeps us clean and healthy.

It helps us in doing our duties.

It makes us good human beings and good Muslims.

ZAKAT

(Poor Tax)

The third pillar of Islam is **Zakat**.

All our wealth and riches belong to Allah. These are given to us in order to fulfil our needs and encourage good deeds in society. We should help those who are poorer than us with our wealth.

Islam wants every man to live in honour and dignity. It has, therefore, made it a duty for the rich to help the poor. A Muslim, who has surplus wealth, must pay some part of it as **Zakat** every year. It helps to make life happy and comfortable for everyone.

Zakat is an act of worship. It is a form of **Ibadah**. The word **Zakat** means "to purify". It purifies our soul. It prevents us from being

miserly and selfish. It purifies our wealth. Regular payment of **Zakat** reminds us that we have to earn wealth only through good and lawful means.

Zakat is not charity. It is a social right on the wealth of the rich. It is used for the welfare of society. It ends the division of society into rich and poor. It unites us into one happy family.

It helps the poor to become better off. It helps the needy and brings their misery to an end. It makes the rich co-operate with the poor. It increases goodness in every heart. It protects society from evil and disorder. Thus **Zakat** purifies society. **Zakat** indeed is a great blessing for us all.

SAUM

(Fasting)

Saum, Fasting, is the fourth pillar of Islam.

Saum is compulsory for all Muslims.¹

Ramadan is the month of fasting. It is the ninth month of the Islamic Calendar.

The Holy Quran was sent by Allah to us in this month.

It is a month of great blessings.

We start fasting at dawn and break the fast at sunset.

We neither eat nor drink during this period.

One who is fasting must commit no evil deed.

1. Little children, people who are sick and travellers are freed from fasting. But travellers should observe fasting after the end of their journeys, and the sick when they become well.

He must not quarrel with anyone.
Fasting is an act of **Ibadah** or
worship.

It is an experience in hunger.
We can know what it is like to be
hungry.

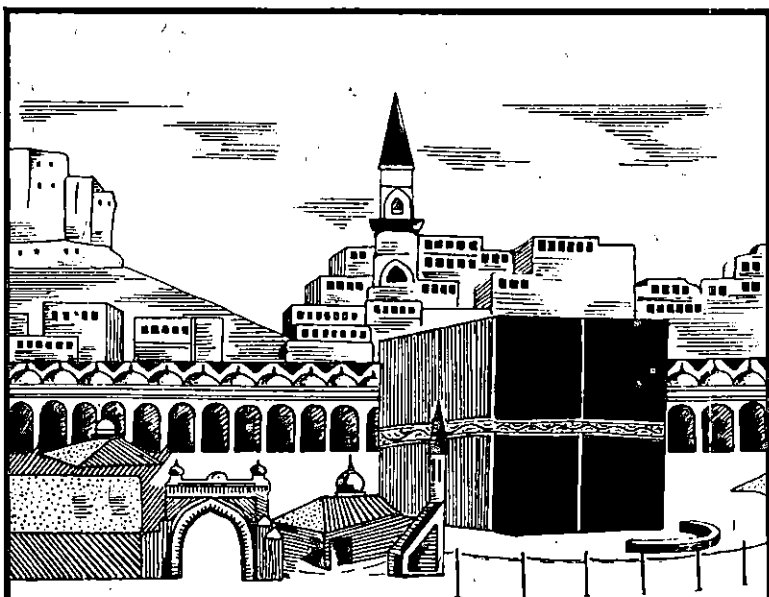
We are able to share other people's
sufferings.

Fasting teaches us self-control and
complete obedience to Allah.
He commands us not to eat or drink,
so we do not.

When He permits, we eat, we drink,
and are thankful to Him.

It is indeed a great joy to obey Allah.
The whole of our lives should be in
obedience to His Commands.

This is what Fasting teaches us.
This is what the Quran teaches us.
We should always be ready and
willing to obey His Commands.



KA'ABA, the Holy Mosque, MAKKAH

HAJJ

(Pilgrimage to Makkah)

Hajj, the Pilgrimage to Makkah, is the fifth pillar of Islam.

It is compulsory for all those Muslims who can afford to perform it once in their life-time.

It is also an act of **Ibadah** and a religious duty.

Salat is a from of **Ibadah** which trains our mind. **Zakat** is a form of **Ibadah** which trains us to spend wealth in the way of Allah. **Saum** is a form of **Ibadah** which trains the body. But, **Hajj** is a form of **Ibadah** which covers every aspect of human life. It trains us to sacrifice all our comforts. all our time, all our possessions in the way of Allah.

Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him) was a great Prophet. He was asked by Allah to build a place of worship. He constructed a simple four-walled building in Makkah. This is called the Kaaba, the first place of worship of One God.

Allah is **Omnipresent**. This means that He is present everywhere. But He has blessed the Kaaba as His House. The Kaaba is, therefore, called Baitullah or the House of Allah.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) started preaching Islam from here. It is the spiritual centre of all Muslims. We face towards the Kaaba whenever we perform **Salat**. **Hajj** means pilgrimage to Makkah from the 8th to the 13th of Dhul Hijjah, the last month of the Islamic Calendar. Muslims from all over the world go there to perform **Hajj**. A religious visit to Makkah at any other time of the year is called **Umrah**.

Hajj is an occasion of great blessings and happiness—to pray in Baitullah; to see with one's own eyes the Kaaba; to see the Holy places of Prophets and to meet Muslims from all over the world. It is a sort of family reunion: all Muslims, black, white, brown, yellow, meet here as brothers and equals before Allah.